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CREDITS

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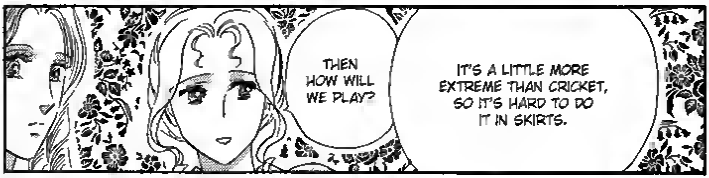
QCER: LADY NYX

Happy
Mother's Dy
From Transient
Mirage

OH MY, THERE ARE SO MANY PEOPLE SURROUNDING LORD KENDALL ..
I SUPPOSE THERE ARE MANY LADIES WHO ARE THINKING THE SAME THING AS I AM.
ANYWAY, WE MUST GO MEET HIM.
AH! MOTHER!
★CHUCKLED★
I UNDERSTAND YOUR INTENTIONS, BUT I WOULDN'T RECOMMEND SIR KENDAL.

EVEN IF YOU MARRY HIM, ONLY UNHAPPINESS WILL AWAIT YOU!
EVENTUALLY YOU'LL REALIZE HE'S NOT GOOD ENOUGH FOR YOU.
MY... MY INTENTIONS?!
I'm impressed with how desperately you're working at this.
All you're saying is that you aren't perfectly suited for me.
THAT... THAT HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH YOU!
WHA...?
YOU'RE MORE STRONG-WILLED THAN MOST PEOPLE THINK
THERE ARE VERY FEW MEN THAT COULD MATCH YOU

TONS OF LADIES?!
SO I GUESS WE ONLY GOT HALF THE RESULT WE WANTED
ROUNDERS... IS THAT A GAME SIMILAR TO CRICKET?
AND PLAY ROUNDERS! WE'VE GOT ALL THE EQUIPMENTS READY
WE'LL LOOK FOR ANOTHER CHANCE, BUT, FOR TODAY, LET'S GO PLAY IN THE WOODS



Note: The term, "underwear," did not exist in their current time (mid 1940s, AKA the 19th century). Even then, this term was taboo in "polite" conversations.

ARE WE REALLY DOING THIS?
AS LONG AS WE'RE IN THE FOREST, WE WON'T BE SEEN BY ANYONE. IT'LL BE FINE!
IN THE FOREST, THERE'S A MEADOW ON THE TOP OF A HILL.
ARE WE REALLY PLAYING LIKE THIS?
IT'S EMBARRASSING
NO ONE WILL SEE US!

LET'S GO! ANNABELLE, YOU'RE UP TO BAT
WHOOSH
SMACK
YOU HIT IT! RUN, ANNABELLE!
EVIE, GO AFTER THE BALL!

WELL THEN, EVIE, YOU'RE UP NEXT. TRY HITTING IT!
I'M SO EMBARRASSED THOUGH, I COULD GET USED TO THE FREEDOM OF WEARING THEM...
THAT'S RIGHT WOULDN'T IT BE LOVELY IF WOMEN COULD WEAR TROUSERS?
YOU CAN RUN SO FREELY WHEN YOU'RE IN TROUSERS.
I SUPPOSE THIS IS HOW MEN FEEL.
SQUEAL
SMASH
ha ha ha
WHAT?!
OH NO! SOMEONE'S COMING!
CLIP CLOP
CLIP CLOP
WHAT'S THAT?
IT'S COMING FROM THE HILL

The Earl of Westcliff and Mr Hunt!!
WHAT... WHAT ON EARTH ARE YOU DOING?
He's laughing...!
★CHUCKLE★

MISS BOWMAN... I'VE NEVER WORN A SKIRT BEFORE, SO I CAN'T PRETEND TO UNDERSTAND, BUT...
WE'RE PLAYING ROUNDERS.
WE CAN'T SERIOUSLY RUN IN SKIRTS, YOU KNOW!
I hope that's so...
YOU'RE SHOWING MR HUNT AND MYSELF SOMETHING WE DIDN'T WISH TO SEE.
THAT IS CORRECT, MISS PEYTON. OUR PRESENCE HERE IS PURELY COINCIDENTAL
HOWEVER, PLEASE CEASE THIS UNLADYLIKE BEHAVIOR AND REFRAIN YOURSELVES FROM ANY FUTURE ACTIVITIES INVOLVING NUDITY OUTDOORS
THE STEWARDS TOLD US THAT NO ONE COMES OUT HERE...
SIMON, LET'S GET AWAY FROM HERE THIS INSTANT.

CLIP CLOP
CLIP CLOP
WHAT ON EARTH WAS THAT!?
CLIP CLOP
OHH, WHAT WILL WE DO?
EVIE

CLIP
CLOP
THAT'S ONE HELL OF A THING TO REMEMBER WHEN I BUMP INTO THOMAS BOWMAN AT WORK, ISN'T IT?
HIS DAUGHTERS IN THEIR UNDER-GARMENTS!
AND WHAT'S MORE, THE OLDER ONE IS SO BRAZEN.
EVEN FOR AMERICANS, THEY'RE VERY IMMODEST!
IT'S NO BIG DEAL, MARCUS, FOR A FEW INNOCENT GIRLS TO HAVE SOME MISCHIEVOUS FUN IN A MEADOW
INNOCENT? AH, I SUPPOSE SO
BUT THERE'S SOME DOUBT ABOUT THAT FOR MISS PEYTON, IN WHOM YOU'VE BEEN TAKING AN INTEREST.
IF THE RUMORS ABOUT HODGEHAM ARE TRUE——
!!
THAT RUMOR'S PERSISTENT

CLIP
Out of the young ladies, she had the shabbiest undergarment...
CLOP
AT ANY RATE, I'D BE ABLE TO SUPPORT HER BETTER THAN HODGEHAM
SIMON, AS YOU HELPED ME WITH YOUR ABILITY IN INVESTING CAPITAL, LET ME GIVE YOU SOME ADVICE
SHE'S CERTAINLY BEAUTIFUL, BUT A WOMAN SO SHALLOW AND SELF-ABSORBED DOESN'T SUIT YOU
MARCUS, I'M NOT SAYING I'M GOING TO MAKE HER MY WIFE. BUT
OF COURSE, MARRIAGE IS A TERRIBLE IDEA
AND AS SOON AS YOU MAKE HER YOUR MISTRESS, SHE'LL BE AFTER YOUR MONEY.
THAT'S NOT TRUE, MARCUS EVEN IF A MAN HAS MONEY, IT MEANS NOTHING TO HER UNLESS HE'S A NOBLEMAN
THIS WILL BE A BOTHER, IF IT BECOMES KNOWN
...THAT WE WERE OUT PLAYING ROUNDERS IN OUR UNDER-GARMENTS.
OW!
ANNA-BELLE?

I DON'T THINK THE EARL WILL TALK, BUT MR. HUNT...
IF THE EARL AND MR. HUNT TELL ANYONE...
WHAT WOULDN'T BE ALL RIGHT IS OUR REPUTATION
IT SEEMS I HURT MY ANKLE WHEN I WAS RUNNING, BUT I'LL BE ALL RIGHT
GETTING MR. HUNT TO STAY QUIET IS ANNABELLE'S JOB!
HUH?
HE'S REALLY TAKEN WITH ANNABELLE. HOW ABOUT ASKING FOR HIS SILENCE IN EXCHANGE FOR A KISS?
A kiss!

ANNABELLE, YOU LOOK PALE.
MAYBE YOU SHOULD SKIP TONIGHT'S DANCE.
NO, MOTHER
POOR ANNABELLE. IS THERE NO OTHER WAY?
HOW NAIVE.
OH MY, ANNABELLE'S GONE ALL RED.
IT.. IT'LL BE ALL RIGHT, IF IT'S FOR THE REPUTATION OF THE WALLFLOWERS
I have a mission!!
Y... YES.
MISS PEYTON, WOULD YOU JOIN ME FOR A DANCE?

SO THE REASON YOU'RE DANCING WITH ME IS...?
I HAVE A FAVOR TO ASK. I WAS HOPING YOU'D KEEP THIS AFTERNOON A SECRET...
A KISS... I'LL GIVE YOU A KISS, JUST ONE
I UNDERSTAND, AND YOU'RE BUYING MY SILENCE WITH ONE WALTZ?
THAT'S AN INTERRESTING OFFER...
BUT, WHY DO YOU HAVE SUCH A PAINED EXPRESSION?
I'M IN PAIN I TWISTED MY FOOT IN THE FOREST..
WHAT?! AND YOU'RE WALTZING WITH ME ANYWAY?!
SO, WHAT'S YOUR ANSWER?
I'LL AGREE TO THE TRADE, SO PLEASE REST...

THANK YOU. I'LL LET YOU KNOW THE TIME AND PLACE LATER...
HOW DID IT GO?
HE AGREED
ANNA-BELLE?
MY FOOT HURTS ON TOP OF THAT... I FEEL DIZZY
THAT'S MR. HUNT'S FAULT.
ANNABELLE!
I DON'T KNOW.
I FEEL...

MR. HUNT!!
I'LL CARRY MISS PEYTON BACK TO HER ROOM WITHOUT DRAWING ANYONE'S
LADIES, PLEASE FIND MRS. PEYTON AND THE EARL OF WESTCLIFF
AND TRY TO BRING A DOCTOR WITH YOU AS WELL!
ALSO, ONE OF YOU COME WITH ME
IF PEOPLE THINK THERE'S SOMETHING INDECENT, THERE WILL BE TROUBLE.

DAISY
WE'LL LEAVE IT TO YOU!
HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN FEELING POORLY?
SINCE THE ROAD BACK FROM THE FOREST..
I ONLY TWISTED IT A LITTLE, BUT IT'S GETTING HARDER AND HARDER TO BREATHE.
ANYHOW, I'M GOING TO LOOK AT YOUR ANKLE.
N..NO! MR. HUNT!

AND YOU CAME TO THE DANCE WITH YOUR FOOT LIKE THIS?!
LORD KENDALL WAS ATTEND-ING...
MISS BOWMAN, PLEASE BE QUIET.
I WOULD NEVER DO ANYTHING AWFUL TO A LADY IN PAIN
THIS IS HOR-RIBLE!
ANNABELLE, IT'S REALLY SWOLLEN!
EVEN SO, WHEN YOU DANCED WITH ME, IT BECAME EVEN WORSE...
!!
MISS BOWMAN, HAVE A SERVANT BRING AN INFUSION OF CLIVERS STEEPED IN BOILING WATER
A ALL RIGHT!
THESE ARE MARKS FROM AN ADDER'S BITE!
HUH, A SNAKE?

Note. The "Common European Adder" is a type of snakes that inhabited western Europe

IT'S BECAUSE YOU WERE WEARING SUCH THIN SLIPPERS WHILE WALKING IN THE FOREST
I DON'T HAVE ANY STURDY SLIPPERS WITH ME.
BESIDES, THAT WAS EARLY IN THE DAY
FOR ADDERS, IT CAN TAKE UP TO A FEW HOURS FOR THE VENOM TO CIRCULATE
THEN, AM I... GOING TO DIE..?
OF COURSE NOT! YOU'LL BE FINE.
ADDERS IN HAMPSHIRE DON'T HAVE STRONG VENOM.
THE NEXT FEW DAYS MAY BE ROUGHT, BUT YOU'LL BE BACK TO NORMAL.
UM... BUT IT'S HARD TO BREA-
ANNA-BELLE?

WE'D BETTER UNFASTEN YOUR CORSET. ROLL OVER!
YOU CAN'T! A MAN C'N'T TAKE OFF A YOUNG LADY'S CORSET!
BRING ME A KNIFE OR A SCISSOR.
IT'S AN EMERGENCY.
Snip
Snip
Snip

RELAX
RELAX AND BREATHE
Y... YES
THE CLIVER TEA IS HERE
AND THEY SAY THE DOCTOR WILL ARRIVE SOON
TH... THANK YOU.
WELL THEN, IT'S TIME FOR ME TO LEAVE

MR. HUNT IS MORE OF A GENTLEMAN THAN WE THOUGH, ISN'T HE?
THOUGH HE DID STRIP YOU DOWN TO YOUR UNDER-GARMENTS....
.....
SLAM
MARCUS! I WANT EVERY VENOMOUS SNAKE ON YOUR PROPERTY EXTERMI-NATED
THE DOCTOR SAID THAT YOUR TREATMENT WAS APPROPRIATE
BUT SIMON, YOU DON'T HAVE TO GO SO FAR TO DEMON-STRATE YOUR CHIV-ALROUS SPIRIT
SIMON? IT'S NOT AS IF YOU TRULY LOVE HER OR ANYTHING....
!!

But I have not stop wanting her since we first met two years ago
OF COURSE NOT!
That woman thinks of nothing but marrying a noble-man
No.
they have only gotten stronger,
in my body,
and in my heart
If she was with me, I would never allow her to be hurt...

IT'S ANOTHER GET-WELL BOUQUET.
THIS ONE'S FROM SIR KENDAL.
THANK GOODNESS, ANNABELLE, YOU STILL HAVE A CHANCE.
I SAW LADY CONSTANCE ALONE TOGETHER WITH A MAN WHO WASN'T SIR KENDAL.
HUH?!
THE TRUTH IS, LADY CONSTANCE HAS SUDDENLY BEGAN MAKING ADVANCES TOWARD LORD KENDALL. IT SEEMS THEY'VE BEEN TALKING ABOUT GARDENING.
HUH?
I THOUGHT THEY MIGHT BE KISSING, BUT HE WAS JUST HELPING HER RETURN A FALLEN BABY ROBIN TO ITS' NEST.
SIR KENDAL MIGHT BE DRAWN TO SOMEONE THAT GENTLE.

"I WOULDN'T RECOMMEND SIR KENDAL. HE'S NOT GOOD ENOUGH FOR YOU."
ANNABELLE, DON'T LOSE YOUR COURAGE! HURRY AND GET WELL
WE'LL SURROUND SIR KENDAL AT THE NEIGHBORING PROPERTY DURING THE PARTY TOMORROW
WE'LL INTERCEPT ANY OTHER LADIES.
THANK YOU
slam

ANNABELLE, SOME STRANGE PACKAGE HAS BEEN SET OUTSIDE THE DOOR
THERE'S NO CARD, AND THE SERVANT SAYS THEY DIDN'T HEAR ANYTHING
SURELY IT'S FROM THOSE AMERICAN LADIES
WHAT KIND OF PACKAGE, MOTHER?

Boots!!
Simon Hunt
They must be from him
Ahh, this is no good. When I close my eyes his face..
"IT'S BECAUSE YOU WERE WEARING SUCH THIN SLIPPERS WHILE WALKING IN THE FOREST."
Surely they're from him!!
..looking at me full of concern, float in my mind..
Ahh... this is no good!

ALMOST EVERYONE HAS GONE OUT. IT'S SO QUIET
MOTHER, IF YOU'RE BORED, WHY DON'T YOU GO OUT FOR A WALK?
I'LL JUST BE RESTING IN THE SITTING ROOM THAT THE EARL LEFT OPEN FOR ME.
I'M GLAD YOU'RE FEELING WELL ENOUGH TO GET OUT OF BED.

MR HUNT ..
BUT YOU STILL LOOK PALER THAN USUAL.
W... WHY ARE YOU HERE?
DID YOU NOT WANT TO GO TO THE NEIGHBOR'S PARTY?
I HAVE BUSINESS TO CONDUCT. MY COMPANY'S MANAGERS ARE COMING FROM LONDON THIS MORNING.
clunk
WORK?
I'M DIFFERENT FROM THOSE ARISTOCRATS WHO WORK FOR FUN.
WELL THEN, WHAT KINDS OF THINGS DO YOU DO?

I'M SUPERVISING AND MANAGING THE LOCOMOTIVE MANUFACTURING COMPANY IN WHICH THE EARL OF WESTCLIFF AND I INVESTED.
LOCOMOTIVES!! I'VE NEVER RIDDEN ON ONE BEFORE. WHAT DOES IT FEEL LIKE?
IT'S REALLY FAST AND EXCITING! OUR COMPANY IS AIMING FOR A SPEED OF 110 KILOMETERS PER HOUR.
110 KILOMETERS?! I CAN'T IMAGINE IT!
I WOULDN'T EVEN MIND MAKING A SPECIAL CAR, JUST FOR YOU.
WHEN WE ACCOMPLISH OUR GOAL, I'LL LET YOU TAKE A RIDE.
OH, REALLY?!
U...UM... ABOUT THOSE BOOTS...
THEY WERE FROM YOU, RIGHT?
BOOTS? WHAT DO YOU MEAN?

AND THE INCIDENT WITH YOU PLAYING ROUNDERS IN YOUR UNDER-GARMENTS
I'M TALKING ABOUT THE KISS,
HUH?
MORE IMPORTANTLY, DO YOU REMEMBER OUR ARRANGMENT, MISS PEYTON?
IF IT WASN'T YOU, I WONDER WHO I SHOULD THANK FOR THEM
IT'S TO PROTECT YOUR REPUTATION, AND TO KEEP SIR KENDAL FROM DISLIKING YOU RIGHT?
YOU'RE THE ONE WHO APPROACHED ME WITH THE IDEA.
AND I WAS STARTING TO THINK YOU MIGHT BE A GENTLEMAN.
THERE AREN'T ANY OTHER SINGLE NOBLEMAN,
OR ANY THAT SEEM INCLINED TOWARDS ME.
ARE YOU REALLY SATISFIED WITH SIR KENDAL?
Y, YES.

I MIGHT BE INCLINED TOWARDS YOU.
YOU'RE NOT A NOBLEMAN.
AND YOU'RE NOT THINKING OF MARRIAGE, ARE YOU?
THAT'S RIGHT.
DON'T LOOK AT ME LIKE THAT. IT BOTHERS ME
IT BOTHERS YOU?

YOUR EYES LOOK LIKE THE NIGHT SKY.
I FEEL LIKE I'M BEING DRAWN INTO THEM
ARE YOU COMPLIMENTING ME?
I... I DON'T KNOW
IT SEEMS I'M WORN OUT, AND MY EXHAUSTION IS
OH, WE CAN'T HAVE THAT. WE MUST HAVE BEEN TALKING TOO MUCH
SHALL I CALL SOMEONE TO HELP YOU TO YOUR ROOM?
NO, I'LL STAY HERE FOR A WHILE,
SINCE MY MOTHER'S GOING TO COME...

I GAVE A SERVANT ONE SILVER TO TELL ME WHERE YOU WERE
SIR HODGEHAM, WHY ARE YOU HERE?!
THIS SITTING ROOM IS EXCLUSIVELY FOR THE EARL'S HOUSEHOLD!
PLEASE LEAVE IF YOU DON'T, I'LL SCREAM!
ANNA-BELLE,
YOU TRULY ARE BEAUTIFUL
!!
YOU CAN'T AFFORD A SCANDAL, MY DEAR. YOUR NAME WILL BE DAMAGED
AND IT'S COMMON KNOWLEDGE THAT YOU'RE AIMING FOR SIR KENDAL
STAY AWAY FROM MY DAUGHTER!

MOTHER...
LET'S TALK IN ANOTHER ROOM
MOTHER!
PHILIPPA, YOU DON'T HAVE TO MAKE SUCH A FRIGHTFUL FACE,
IF YOU'RE JUST SAYING THAT YOU'LL COME WITH ME
!!
NO, MOTHER!
DON'T GO!!

WE SHOULD INTRODUCE THE AMERICAN METHOD, AFTER ALL
THEN WE'LL BE ABLE TO MASS PRODUCE
MISS PEYTON!
WHY ARE YOU STANDING ALONE IN A PLACE LIKE THIS?

I WAS JUST HEADING BACK TO MY ROOM
MAKING YOUR WAY ALONG THE WALL!?
I THOUGHT IT WOULD BE FINE...
THIS ISN'T IN A JOKE IN YOUR CONDITION!
WHERE'S YOUR MOTHER? I'LL CALL HER IMMEDIATELY...
NO!!
DON'T LOOK FOR MY MOTHER!!
PLEASE...
ANNABELLE?
I UNDERSTAND I WON'T GO LOOKING FOR YOUR MOTHER.
I'LL SEE YOU TO YOUR ROOM
WAIT, SIMON
I'LL CALL A SERVANT...
!!

MR HUNT!
MARCUS, WE'LL DISCUSS BUSINESS AGAIN LATER
PLEASE PUT ME DOWN.
YOU CAN'T JUST... DO THIS.
THERE'S NO NEED TO WORRY. THERE'S NO ONE LEFT HERE NOW, SO MY HOLDING YOU WON'T CAUSE ANY SCANDAL.
THE EARL OF WESTCLIFF WON'T SPREAD THIS AROUND, OF COURSE.
MORE IMPORTANLY, TALK TO ME. WHAT'S BOTHERING YOU?
AS I WAS SAYING BEFORE, I MIGHT BE ABLE TO LEND YOU A HAND.
Does he mean he'll support me as a mistress?
If I become his mistress, I'd be able to save my mother.

And it's not only that.
His strong, embracing arms..
and passionate kisses would be mine.
WE'VE REACHED YOUR ROOM
ANNA-BELLE
GASP
What am I thinking?! That is absolutely impossible!!
TH— THANK YOU.
SHALL I SEE YOU TO YOUR BED?
I— I'M FINE. PLEASE DON'T ENTER MY ROOM
ANNABELLE, ARE YOU AFRAID OF ME?

I HAVE NO INTENTION OF BECOMING YOUR MISTRESS!
I WANT A MUCH HIGHER POSSITION!
because I can't seem to resist your allure.
Yes, I'm frightened.
I...
IN OTHER WORDS, ARE YOU REFERRING TO CATCHING A HUSBAND?
OR ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT BECOMING A MISTRESS OF A NOBLEMAN?
WHICHEVER!
IT'S NONE OF YOUR BUSINESS.
THANK YOU FOR SEEING ME SAFELY HERE.
SLAM
OPEN

I won't become anyone's mistress!
I'll catch Sir Kendal!
GOOD MORNING, EVERYONE!
YOU'VE GOTTEN WELL ENOUGH TO MAKE A MORNING WALK
ANNA-BELLE!
IF IT'S A SHORT ONE.
ANYWAY, WHILE I WAS RESTING, WHAT HAS HAPPENED WITH SIR KENDAL AND LADY CONSTANCE?
IT'S FINE!
WE'VE BEEN WORKING HARD TO KEEP THEM APART.
IN FACT, SIR KENDAL HAS BEEN WORRIED ABOUT YOU
HUH?
HE SAID A LONG TIME AGO, HE'D ALSO BEEN BITTEN BY A SNAKE, AND HE'D SUFFERED TERRIBLY.

SPEAKING OF THE DEVIL..
MISS PEYTON!!
THANK YOU.
IT MUST HAVE BEEN AWFUL FOR YOU. HERE, TAKE MY ARM
Hodgeham..
HMM

Transient Mirage
RECRUITING!
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Editors
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QCers
Come & join us!